

BOROUGH OF STAFFORD



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

TOGETHER WITH THE REPORT OF THE

Senior Sanitary Inspector

1945

STAFFORD:

J. & C. MORT, LTD., GREENGATE STREET

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H. B. BINKS,

Medical Officer of Health.

IVOR O. WILLIAMS,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

STAFFORD :

J. & C. MORT, LTD., GREENGATE STREET

BOROUGH HEALTH OFFICE,
5, MARTIN STREET,
STAFFORD.

July, 1946.

**To the Chairman and Members of
the Public Health Committee.**

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you the 71st Annual Report on the Health of the people and the sanitary condition of your Borough.

For the Public Health and the Maternity and Child Welfare Committees in particular this has been a year of "carrying on" under difficulties, not only on account of shortages of staff, nursing, clerical, and domestic, and delays as to repairs and renewals, etc., but also on account of the impending Health Services Bill, which, until put into effect, lends to local government for smaller Authorities an air of unreality. The Council have felt it wise to record the following :—

"That endeavours be made in concert with the Association of Municipal Corporations and the Non-County Boroughs Association to secure compulsory delegation to all claiming Non-County Boroughs of powers as the local Health Authority, unless the Minister, after local Inquiry, is satisfied that any Non-County Borough is incapable of exercising satisfactorily the functions referred to."

Statistics for the year continue favourable though not so outstanding as for the past year. Special note may be made of the lower death rate from Tuberculosis and the low incidence of Diphtheria.

Progress is being made in housing, and the time appears to be approaching when consideration may soon be given to the following questions among others with some hope of success :—Improved Health Visiting—Home Helps—provision for the housing of and guidance of difficult or problem families—the housing and domiciliary care of the aged and infirm—and the more hygienic handling of our food.

It is becoming increasingly more noticeable that through the years infections of the gastro-intestinal tract are of more frequent occurrence than is generally realised. The remedies are (1) the wider appreciation by the public of how these diseases are spread, and (2) the general acceptance of the importance of a higher standard of personal cleanliness. The inspection and registration of premises for the preparation

of foodstuffs, and the instructions as to the washing of hands, etc., by the personnel has already and is still being carried out. The protection of food in its conveyance from the manufacturer to the consumer was making progress prior to the war, but, mainly due to the war effort, packages, cartons, and paper protection have disappeared. Thus, wholesale contamination is possible, and a reversal to the pre-war protection is indicated as soon as possible.

This naturally brings forward the question as to the desirability of greater control not only as to the quality of our foodstuffs but of their hygienic condition, *i.e.*, freedom from germs. In the past, legislation has mainly concerned itself as to the "nature and substance of the article" sold, and the question as to its bacteriological condition or disease conveying possibilities has largely been neglected excepting in the case of milk and water for which definite standards have been laid down. It is therefore not without interest to record that on a report (1946) presented to the Public Health Committee on the bacteriological condition of samples of ice cream sold in the area that recommendations were sent to the Minister of Health and to the local Member of Parliament calling for a bacteriological standard to be brought into being (see page 4).

Thanks are due to you, Mr. Chairman, and the Members of the Committee for help and criticism during the past twelve months. To my colleagues and the Staff generally I wish to express appreciation and my indebtedness to them for their loyal support.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

H. B. BINKS.

REPORT

SECTION A.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

General Statistics.

Area of Borough	.. .. .	5,089 acres
Registrar-General's estimate of population, mid-1945	.. .. .	33,610
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1945) according to Rate Books	.. ..	9,210*
Rateable value (31st March, 1945)	.. ..	£219,661
Sum represented by a penny rate (1944— 1945)	.. .. .	£898

*The total of 9,210 inhabited houses is made up as follows :—

Houses	.. .. .	8,875
Farm houses	.. .. .	18
Shops with living accommodation	..	317

Social Conditions.

Mr. E. R. Arnold, Manager of the Employment Exchange, has supplied me with the following information :—

“ The chief industries, trades and occupations are as follows :—

	Number of Insured Workpeople.				
	Men	Women	Boys	Girls	Total
Electrical Engineering	3499	1492	355	373	5719
Trades Engineering.....	991	290	105	60	1446
Boot and Shoe.....	379	545	43	144	1111
Wood Heel Manufacture....	51	53	1	7	112
Abrasive Wheel Industry...	670	363	24	54	1111
Reinforced Concrete Industry	154	73	1	15	243
Building and Civil Engineering.....	392	18	84	5	499
Distributive Trades	348	670	108	236	1362
Local Government Service	713	473	59	68	1313
Totals.....	7179	3977	780	962	12916

“ The total insurable population is 20,258.

“ There were 32 persons registered as unemployed during December, 1945, but these were mainly transitory claims, there being no hard core of unemployment. Employment has continued throughout the year at a very high level.”

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

Registered live births :—

	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	590	309	281
Illegitimate	45	17	28
	<u>635</u>	<u>326</u>	<u>309</u>

Birth Rate (per 1,000 estimated population) **18.8**

Stillbirths :—

	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	15	8	7
Illegitimate	3	3	—
	<u>18</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>7</u>

Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births **27**

Deaths :—

Males	171
Females	170
Total	<u>341</u>

Death Rate (per 1,000 estimated population) .. **10.1**
Principal causes of death, their number, and their percentage :—

	Number 1944	Number 1945	Percentage of whole
Heart Disease.. ..	76	95	27.8
Cancer	54	42	12.3
Bronchitis, Pneumonia, etc.	21	41	12.0
Tuberculosis (all forms)	18	16	4.6
Prematurity	9	9	2.6
Violence	6	10	2.9
Maternal Deaths :—			
Puerperal Sepsis		0	
Other maternal causes		1	
		—	
Total		1	
		—	

Maternal Death Rate (per 1,000 total live and still births) **1.5**

Deaths of Infants under one year of age :—

	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	26	15	11
Illegitimate.. ..	4	2	2
	—	—	—
	30	17	13
	—	—	—

Infantile Death Rate (all infants per 1,000 live births) **47**

 Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births **44**

 Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births **90**

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	1
,, ,, Whooping Cough (all ages)	0
,, ,, Diarrhoea under two years of age)	2

Births.—The total number of registered live births for the year was 635, 326 males and 309 females. It will be noted that this is approximately 100 less than last year, and thus, in proportion to the number of births, the illegitimate births at 45 are at a higher rate than for the previous year.

A table setting out the rates for the last ten years follows :—

Year	STAFFORD BOROUGH.				Birth Rate for Smaller Towns of England and Wales
	Total Births	Birth Rate	Total Still Births	Still Birth Rate	
1936 ..	395	12.7	19	46	15.0
1937 ..	467	14.8	18	38	15.3
1938 ..	493	15.3	14	27	15.4
1939 ..	516	15.8	20	37	15.0
1940 ..	540	15.3	13	23	14.6
1941 ..	596	15.8	24	39	14.2
1942 ..	667	18.0	18	26	15.8
1943 ..	661	18.3	23	33	16.5
1944 ..	720	20.7	19	26	17.6
1945 ..	635	18.8	18	27	19.2

Deaths.—The number of deaths registered was 341 as against 299 last year. This increase is due to a rise in the number of deaths from diseases of the Heart, Influenza, Pneumonia, and Bronchitis.

Infantile Mortality.

Nineteen babies died before reaching the age of four weeks and eleven more died before reaching the age of one year.

The most prominent single cause of death this year has been Pneumonia, from which cause ten babies died—nine occurred during February and March. An enquiry into their environmental circumstances disclosed the presence of (a) older children in eight instances, (b) that in four cases more than one family lived in the same house, and (c) that 46 persons occupied 40 bedrooms. There would appear therefore to have been a degree of propinquity present, especially in the case of (c), favourable to the development of those infections of which Pneumonia is an example, and to which infant life is highly susceptible.

Prematurity accounted for nine cases. Three were born in Nursing Home or Hospital, four were transferred from home to the Infirmary, and two died in their own homes. Two of the deaths were of twins, and only three of these babies lived longer than the first day. Although prematurity used to be looked upon as one of the unavoidable forms of infant death, this is so no longer, and active steps are being taken throughout the country to lower its incidence.

Last year it was remarkable that there were no deaths of illegitimates, but this year the mortality rate for illegitimates is 90 per 1,000.

The table below shows the number, age, and cause of death of children under one year of age.

DEATHS UNDER ONE YEAR.

Causes of Death.	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	1-3 months	3-5 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	Total deaths under 1 year
Prematurity	8	1	—	—	9	—	—	—	—	9
Broncho-pneumonia ..	—	—	—	2	2	2	3	2	1	10
Bronchitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Atelectasis	3	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	3
Tuberculous Meningitis..	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Gastro-enteritis	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Congenital Deformity ..	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	2
Congenital Syphilis ..	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Intra-cranial Hæmorrhage	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Asphyxia	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Total ..	15	2	—	2	19	4	4	2	1	30

Ward distribution of baby deaths was :—North, 8 ; South, 7 ; East, 3 ; West, 8 ; Baswich, 4.

The following table gives the infant mortality for 1945 and for the previous ten years :—

Year	Births	Under one month		Under one year	
		Deaths	Rate per 1000 births	Deaths	Rate per 1000 births
1935 ..	429	8	19	16	37
1936 ..	395	17	43	24	60
1937 ..	467	6	13	14	30
1938 ..	493	21	43	30	60
1939 ..	516	24	46	36	69
1940 ..	540	18	33	30	55
1941 ..	596	12	20	26	42
1942 ..	667	25	37	35	52
1943 ..	661	17	25	30	45
1944 ..	720	15	21	20	27
Average for 10 yrs.	548.4	16.3	30.0	26.1	47.7
1945 ..	635	19	29	30	47

Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality, and Case Rates for Certain Infectious Diseases.

	England and Wales	148 Smaller Towns	STAFFORD	
			1945	1944
	Rates per 1,000		Population :—	
Live Births	16.1	19.2	18.8	20.7
Still Births	0.46	0.53	0.53	0.54
DEATHS.				
All Causes	11.4	12.3	10.1	8.6
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	—	—
Small-pox	—	—	—	—
Measles	0.02	0.02	0.03	—
Scarlet Fever	0.00	0.00	—	—
Whooping Cough	0.02	0.01	—	0.03
Diphtheria	0.02	0.02	—	—
Influenza	0.08	0.07	0.15	—
NOTIFICATIONS.				
Small-pox	0.00	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	1.89	2.03	2.20	3.52
Diphtheria	0.46	0.56	0.14	0.40
Typhoid Fever	0.01	0.01	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	0.01	0.01	—	—
Erysipelas	0.25	0.24	0.32	0.31
Pneumonia	0.87	0.72	0.23	0.20
Cerebro-spinal Fever	0.05	0.05	0.17	—
Whooping Cough	1.64	1.47	2.38	5.86
Measles	11.67	11.19	14.46	1.06
	Rates per 1,000		Live Births :—	
Deaths under one year of age	46	43	47	27
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under two years of age	5.6	4.5	3.1	—
Rates per 1,000 Total	Births (Live and		Still) :—	
MATERNAL MORTALITY :				
Abortion with sepsis	0.25	Not avail- able	—	—
Abortion without sepsis	0.08		—	—
Puerperal infections	0.24		—	—
Other	1.22		1.53	1.35
NOTIFICATIONS :—				
Puerperal Fever	} 9.93	8.81	7.65	8.12
Puerperal Pyrexia				

The rates apply to the civilian population only.

The 148 Smaller Towns have resident populations of 24,000 to 50,000 ; Stafford is one of these.

THE REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S SHORT LIST OF CAUSES OF DEATH is given below:—

Cause of Death	Total.	Males.	Females.
Cerebro-spinal Fever	1	—	1
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	14	10	4
Other forms of Tuberculosis	2	1	1
Syphilitic disease	3	3	—
Influenza	5	4	1
Measles	1	—	1
Acute infectious encephalitis.....	1	1	—
Cancer of uterus	5	—	5
Cancer of stomach and duodenum	9	8	1
Cancer of breast	7	—	7
Cancer of all other sites	21	13	8
Diabetes	1	—	1
Intra-cranial vascular lesions.....	40	14	26
Heart Disease	95	41	54
Other Diseases of the circulatory system	16	9	7
Bronchitis.....	23	10	13
Pneumonia	16	10	6
Other respiratory diseases	2	1	1
Ulceration of stomach or duodenum	2	2	—
Diarrhœa (under two years of age)	2	—	2
Appendicitis	2	1	1
Other digestive diseases.....	10	4	6
Nephritis	7	5	2
Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis	—	—	—
Other maternal causes	1	—	1
Premature birth	9	3	6
Congenital Malformations, birth injury, infantile disease	7	5	2
Suicide	2	1	1
Road Traffic accidents	3	2	1
Other violent causes	5	4	1
All other causes.....	29	19	10
TOTAL DEATHS	341	171	170

Ward distribution of deaths :—

North, 77 ; South, 73 ; East, 86 ; West, 72 ; Bas-
wich, 33.

SECTION B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Laboratory Facilities.

The examination or analysis of clinical material (sputum, swabs, etc.), water, milk, and foodstuffs is carried out at the County Laboratories, Martin Street, Stafford. The County Bacteriologist, Dr. Edwards, and the County Analyst, Mr. Jones, have always given me their willing assistance and advice.

During the year bacteriological reports were received from the County Laboratory by the Medical Officer of Health on the following :—

Swabs examined for Diphtheria bacilli	1261
Other Swabs	35
Virulence Test (Diphtheria)	21
Blood for Agglutination Tests.. .. .	6
Faeces	77
Urine	3
Pus	16
Cerebro-spinal fluid	24
Sputum for Tubercle bacilli	55
Biological Test (Tuberculosis).. .. .	11
Other examinations	37

Ambulance Facilities.

Two ambulances are maintained by the Local Authority. One for the removal of non-infectious and accident cases, the other for infectious cases.

The Service, as intimated last year, was re-organised, and has resulted in an improvement, especially as regards promptness in turning out for accidents and cases of urgent illness. There have been no complaints, and the local needs of the Borough and Rural areas are being fully met. New Regulations were drawn up and approved by the Council whereby a free Ambulance Service was instituted. It has been necessary, however, to restrict the use of the ambulance for distant cases to those of exceptional severity.

The Men's Section of the Red Cross have been approached and have agreed to provide help whereby bedridden cases can be moved in the home on request by the Doctor in attendance.

An analysis of 146 cases for November and December are set out below :—

Time of Call	Nature of Call					
	Public Assist- ance	Ill- ness	Infect- ious	Acci- dent	Matern- ity	Others
8 a.m.—12 noon ..	5	14	3	3	3	8
12 noon—5 p.m. ..	11	35	8	6	1	—
5 p.m.—10 p.m. ..	1	21	4	8	2	1
10 p.m.—8 a.m. ..	1	5	—	2	4	—

Abortive calls 2.

The total number of journeys was 867, covering 6,280 miles. Infectious cases, 103 ; Accident, 57 ; Sickness, 722 ; Abortive calls, 19.

The special needs of Hospital patients have been met by a Hospital Car Service. This body is a joint effort of the Red Cross and St. John's Societies and W.V.S. by which patients are transported in private cars on payment of a small initial fee. Necessitous cases are helped by the Almoner. It has worked very successfully throughout the year, and has been the means whereby the ambulance is no longer tied down to a Hospital while waiting for a patient to receive treatment.

Isolation Hospital, Tithe Barn Road.

The following members of the Public Health Committee represent the Council on the House Committee :—Alderman Merrey, Alderman Mrs. Turney, Councillor Mrs. Welton, and Councillor Dobson. Alderman Merrey is Chairman.

Admissions from Stafford Borough were as follows :—

Scarlet Fever	54
Diphtheria	5
Diphtheria Carriers	4
Tonsillitis	3
Streptococcal tonsillitis	1
Mumps	2
Measles	2
Glandular Fever	1
Peritonsillar abscess	1
<hr/>	
Total	73
<hr/>	

Infant Welfare Centre.

The attendance at the Centre continues to be good, but is affected from year to year by many and varying influences ; one, which is becoming of increasing moment as re-housing progresses, is that of distance. Consideration, therefore, to the establishment of sub-centres, not only in the South but also in the North, must be given either by the Borough if they remain the Welfare Authority or by their successors. The position in the North has been evident for some years, but the lack of a suitable building there, together with the War, has held this development back.

From time to time requests have been made that a greater variety of medicines and foods should be available at the Centre—in some instances that these should be given free. The Welfare Centre should be a Centre for *advice* and guidance, and the time of the trained staff should be devoted to that purpose and not transferred to the art of salesmanship. It is possible that attendances might be increased if such measures were adopted.

The Centre is open daily for Minor Ailments from 9 to 10-30, all day Monday and Wednesday for Welfare sessions, and on Friday morning from 9 to 10-30 for Diphtheria Immunisation. The Ministry of Food arrange for the sale and distribution of vitamins, etc., for mothers and babies on Welfare days. The Stafford Cripples Centre is open daily and is housed in the same building.

As will be seen in a subsequent note, a series of instructional films have been shown at the Centre during the year. The response was encouraging but not good, although the sessions were limited to a period of twenty minutes only.

The County Education Committee, through their Instructress, Miss C. M. Jones, have continued to render good service to the mothers attending the Centre, and, as reported last year, she has instructed them well in the art of cooking and “ Make Do and Mend.”

The following is a brief summary of attendances :—

	Average for previous five years.	1945
(1) Total number of attendances during the year :—		
(i) by children under one year of age	6100	8319
(ii) by children between the ages of one and five years	3671	3070

	Average	1945
(2) Total number of children who attended at the Centre during the year, and who, on the date of their first attendance were :—		
(i) under one year of age	417	417
(ii) between the ages of one and five years	67	28
(3) Total number of children under five years of age who attended at the Centre during the year and who at the end of the year were :—		
(i) under one year of age	366	364
(ii) over one year of age	719	507
(4) Percentage of notified live births represented by the number in (2) (i)	59.1	47.8
MINOR AILMENTS.—		
ATTENDANCES.—1943 New cases .. 61	Revisits..	83
1944 „ „ .. 76	„ ..	140
1945 „ „ .. 93	„ ..	522

Baby Day.

The following account of the Celebrations is contributed by Miss Birch.

“ The Baby Day Celebrations were held at the Infant Welfare Centre, North Walls, on Wednesday, June 13th, 1945. At the commencement the guests were welcomed by Councillor Mrs. Robinson, Chairman of the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee.

“ The Blumer Shield, which is awarded to the child who has made the best progress during the year in spite of adverse conditions, was presented by the Mayor, Councillor Wallace-Copland, to Dianne Chetwyn. The winner also received a medal which had been given by Councillor Mrs. Amies. Runners-up received Savings Certificates given by the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee. Mothercraft Certificates were then presented to 56 mothers by the Mayoress.

“ Attendance Certificates for children with regular attendances at the Welfare Centre from birth to five years of age were presented by Councillor Mrs. Cotterill, vice-Chairman of the Committee. The first prize, a quilt given by Mrs. Aspin was won by Maureen Johnson. The runners-up received Savings Certificates, also given by the Committee.

“ A short talk to the mothers was then given by Dr. Blumer who had judged the babies for the Shield competition, and this was followed by an address by Dr. Binks.

“ A vote of thanks was accorded the Mayor and Mayoress, and the Celebrations terminated with tea served by the ladies of the Voluntary Committee.”

Ante-natal Care.

Medical Practitioners carried out under your Maternity Domiciliary Scheme :—

	1944	1945
Primary ante-natal examinations	241	220
Secondary ante-natal examinations ..	96	152
Ante-natal cases seen for a third time ..	3	11
“ “ “ “ fourth “ ..	0	2

Total number of expectant mothers ante-natally examined and of cases post-natally examined :—

	Ante-natal	Post-natal
1943	177	53
1944	241	62
1945	220	52

The percentage of total notified births (live and still) represented by the total number of women.

	Ante-natal	Post-natal
1943	22.7	6.8
1944	28.8	7.4
1945	27.9	6.6

The above figures should be read in conjunction with the figure given below (Births Distribution) under District Nursing Association—Midwives, when it will be readily seen that the number of cases attending for ante-natal examination do approximate to 100% of the number of cases attended by midwives in the Borough, and thus the figure 27.9, given in the table above as the percentage of total notified births attending for ante-natal, does not represent clearly the position as far as Stafford is concerned.

Total.	Births Distribution.	Stillbirths.
763	Maternity Homes 306	
	Institutions 108	
	Doctors' cases 3	
	District Nursing Association—	
	As Maternity Nurses 147	
	As Midwives	199
		2

Of the total 437 ante- and post-natal examinations carried out under the scheme, 222 were of insured persons, and abnormalities were discovered in 96 individuals at the ante-natal examinations. The respective figures for 1944 were 402, 185, and 89.

RECOMMENDATIONS :—

	1944		1945
Doctor to be present at confinement ..	1	..	1
Further ante-natal examinations ..	173	..	171
Specialist's opinion	3	..	0
Admission to Hospital	0	..	1
Confinement to take place in Hospital	0	..	0
Dental treatment	44	..	33

POST-NATAL EXAMINATIONS :—

Number of cases found to be abnormal

in some respect 25 .. 18

It has been the policy of the Welfare Committee to encourage mothers to attend for their first general medical examination at or about the third month of their pregnancy.

EMERGENCY ARRANGEMENTS.—No change was made during the year.

The services of the Consultant were required on seventeen occasions, and were for the following conditions :—

- 1.—Hospital case. Primipara. Placenta Praevia. Caesarian section.
- 2.—Hospital case. Primipara. Placenta Praevia. Caesarian section.
- 3.—Hospital case. Multipara. Disproportion. Caesarian section.
- 4.—Hospital case. Primipara. Disproportion. Hydrocephalic.
- 5.—Home case. Multipara. Eclampsia. Induction.
- 6.—Home case. Multipara. Fibroid complicating pregnancy.
- *7.—Hospital case. Multipara. Delay in labour. High forceps.
- 8.—Hospital case. Multipara. Placenta Praevia. Podalic Version.
- 9.—Hospital case. Primipara. Post Partum Haemorrhage. Blood transfusion. Curettage.
- 10.—Home case. Multipara. Extensive tear. Sutures under General Anaesthetic.
- 11.—Hospital case. Multipara. Placenta Praevia. Induced.
- *12.—Hospital case. Primipara. Puerperal Pyrexia.
- 13.—Hospital case. Multipara. Hyperemesis Gravidarum. Intravenous transfusion.
- 14.—Home case. Multipara. Oedema.

- 15.—Hospital case. Primipara. Disproportion. Caesarian section.
- *16.—Home case. Multipara. Anxiety neurosis. Home treatment.
- *17.—Hospital case. Primipara. Albuminuria. Medical treatment.

*These cases had been seen ante-natally by their own Doctor under the domiciliary scheme.

HOME HELPS.—The Minister of Health has fully appreciated the usefulness of a well run Home Help service, but again this year it has not been found possible to re-introduce Home Helps because Industry has prior claim on all the most suitable women.

Maternity Beds.

The Council assumed financial responsibility in respect of 15 cases which had been admitted to Institutions on account of unsatisfactory home conditions in accordance with the agreement with the County Public Assistance Committee. The cost was recoverable from the patient in 11 cases.

There are in the Borough maternity beds distributed as follows :—

Burton House	..	..	..	12
Marston Road Hospital	..	..	..	5
Private Nursing Homes	.	..	..	13

414 babies were born in Nursing Homes, etc.—approximately 54% of all babies born in the Borough. This number, if all beds were in use, could be extended to 600 without any limitation of the lying-in period.

Health Visiting.

Number of visits paid during the year by the Health Visitors :—

	Average for previous five years.				1945
To expectant mothers :—					
First visits	113	..	..	58
Total visits	192	..	..	97
To children under one year of age :—					
First visits	596	..	..	583
Total visits	1868	..	..	2453

	Average	1945
To children between the ages of one and five years	4055	2314
Inquiries into infant deaths	25	29
Inquiries into stillbirths	14	11
Unclassified visits	57	825

This is the most important branch of the Maternity and Child Welfare Services, and it is the branch which is the first to suffer if through any cause the Health Visitor has extra duties thrust upon her, or there is actually a shortage of staff. The increasing use of the Health Visitor for visits of enquiry on account of the unmarried mother, the admission of expectant mothers to Institutions or Homes, and enquiries of a sociological nature on behalf of other Authorities, do infringe appreciably on her time for Health Visiting. As reported last year, only one-third of the effective number of home visits are being made, and thus it is to be hoped that suitable candidates will be available when the Welfare Committee decides to make the appointment of an additional Health Visitor.

Infant Life Protection (under Part I. of the Children's Act, 1908, as amended by the Children and Young Persons Act, 1932).

On Register,	Removals	4
1st January, 1945 .. 9	Adopted	0
New cases 1	Over nine years	2
	On Register,	
	31st December, 1945	4
	—	—
	10	10
	—	—

There were 4 fewer cases on the Register than in 1944. The Health Visitors paid 33 visits during the year.

The Committee decided to make conditions in respect of one case brought to their notice during the year.

Dental Treatment.

The following report has been kindly supplied to me by the Acting County Dental Officer, Mr. F. C. Winter :—

“ During the year 1945 the arrangements whereby the dental staff of the County Council undertake the dental treatment of Nursing and Expectant Mothers and “ Toddlers ” resident in the Borough have been continued.

“ The patients are recommended by the Medical Staff of the Welfare Centre and attend the Dental Clinic in Lammas-cote Road.

“ The following figures give the details for the year :—

MOTHERS.

Total treated during the year	25
Referred for treatment	12
Accepting treatment	12
<i>Treatment incomplete at the end of the</i> <i>previous year</i>	13
Attendances at the clinic	91
Appointments broken	17
Sessions (half-days)	16
Extractions of permanent teeth.. ..	84
Local Anaesthetics	84
Fillings	7
Scalings	3
Dressings	31
Impressions	23
Bites	8
Try-in	9
Dentures fitted	16
Repairs to dentures	5
Sundries	7

CHILDREN.

Number treated	37
Attendances at clinic	37
Extractions (temporary teeth)	21
Fillings	2
Dressings of silver nitrate	24
Advice given	11
Accompanied by parent	37
Sessions (half-days)	6.5

Supply of Milk and Vitamins to Mothers and Infants.

The Food Executive Officer has supplied me with figures concerning milk, cod liver oil, fruit juices and vitamin A. and D. tablets distributed. These figures applied to the combined district of Borough and Rural. The table, too sets out the amount of vitamins available and the percentage collected by the mothers.

MILK.	Beneficiaries.		Beneficiaries.
Special rate (liquid) ..	4440	Special rate (dried) ..	300
Free (liquid)	52	Free (dried)	18
	<hr/>		<hr/>
TOTALS ..	4492		318
	<hr/>		<hr/>

The percentages of the 4,810 beneficiaries may be allocated as follows :—

Expectant mothers	.. .. .	8.33%
Babies (birth—1 year)	.. .. .	18.5%
Toddlers (1 year—5 years)	.. .. .	73.17%

Type of Vitamin	Potential take-up			Actual take-up	
	Expectant mothers	Children	Total	Expectant Mothers & children	% of take-up in Area
Cod Liver Oil	.. Nil.	35280	35280	7364	20.84
Fruit Juices	.. 15600	114660	130260	61750	47.5
Vit. A. & D.	.. 3200	Nil.	3200	1263	39.5

The drop in the percentage of Orange Juice take-up on the 1944 figures is due to the fact that considerably more quantities of fresh oranges were available in 1945 and also to the fact that from August to December, 1945, the issues of orange juice were restricted to one bottle per person owing to the supply position.

The Minister of Health has been concerned as to the limited extent to which these extra vitamins have been taken up by mothers and children. In Stafford there is a large demand for those products provided at the Welfare Centre, and, from enquiries, it would appear that many mothers also obtain their vitamins in a form under guidance of their private Doctor or Chemist.

Orthopaedic Treatment.

Forty-six cases were under treatment during the year. There were 24 new cases, 13 cases were discharged, one attained the age of five years and was transferred to the Education Committee, and three left the town. One case refused to continue treatment.

The Welfare Committee since April 1st, 1945, agreed to provide for this treatment free.

The cost to this Authority was :—

	£	s.	d.
Clinic	169	0	0
Hospital	12	10	3
	<hr/>		
	£181	10	3
	<hr/>		

The cases under treatment are classified as follows :—

Knock knees	15
Talipes	10
Bow legs.. .. .	4
Torticollis	4
Flat feet	3
Scoliosis	2
No hand	1
Deformed fingers	1
Spastic arm	1
Rickets	1
Genu Valgum	1
Dislocated hips	1
Paralysis of leg	1
No deformity.. .. .	1

Maternity Home.

This Home is increasingly being made use of by the Borough residents and by many in the surrounding districts, and in 1946 the beds will be occupied to capacity.

The main difficulties during the year have been staff, both nursing and domestic, and their accommodation. The Matron, Miss Davies, and Sister are to be commended for the many expressions of appreciation which have reached the Committee from patients who cannot have known the many anxious moments that these shortages of staff have caused. The Committee have been sympathetic, and have taken all steps in their power to mitigate these crises which have indeed on occasions threatened the closure of the Home.

The need for better nursing quarters is acute, and alterations and repairs are urgently awaiting attention.

STATISTICS.

Lying-in beds, 12.

- (1) Cases admitted, 160.
- (2) Average duration of stay in the lying-in wards, 14.3 days.
- (3) Number of cases delivered by doctors, 92 : by midwives, 68.
- (4) Medical assistance was sought in 16 of the 68 cases attended by midwives.
- (5) Puerperal pyrexia cases, 2.
- (6) 115 babies were wholly breast fed on leaving the Home.

- (7) There were 2 stillbirths and 3 babies died within ten days of birth. In all cases a Doctor was in attendance.
- (7a) Emergency cases admitted, 3. Cancellations, 19.
- (8) Outside cases numbered 21.
- (9) Assessment on booking averaged £5 8s. per week per case as against £5 15s. for 1944.
- (10) Bookings from January 1st to May 31st, 1946, 105.

War-time Day Nurseries and Nursery Class.

Circular 221/45, received from the Ministry of Health in December, outlined the changing conditions affecting Day Nurseries brought about by the termination of War and the passing into law of the Education Act, 1944. The Circular emphasised that Post-War needs were now to be considered, and that under normal peace time conditions the view that mothers with children under two years of age should be discouraged from going out to work, and that the Education Authorities would be extending the numbers of Nursery Schools and Nursery Classes. In view of the foregoing, the Welfare Committee should, in conjunction with the County Education Committee, decide whether both or one of the two Nurseries should continue to be run by the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee.

After full discussion it was decided to retain Riverside and transfer Sandyford Street to the Education Committee. The Committee were helped to this decision by a full occupational analysis of all those whose children were attending the Nurseries and also those who were on the waiting list, and, further, they felt that, in view of the imminence of the projected building programme it would be wiser to wait and see if present resources are sufficient to meet the needs of the town before embarking on any extensions of these services.

The Day Nurseries have continued to give good service to the community, and it is agreed by all who visit them that the children look well, are happy and clean, and have responded to their environment in a positive way, *i.e.*, they learn to meet those problems which arise at different phases of their development in a fearless and confident manner. This bearing is extended to the Staff and to visitors to the Nursery.

Medical inspections have been carried out regularly throughout the year.

Five probationers obtained their Day Nursery Diplomas.

Both Nurseries held parties at Christmas, to which parents and the members of the Maternity Committee were invited, and the rooms made festive for the occasion. At Riverside Miss Miller held the children spellbound for fifteen minutes or so with a puppet show, followed by a sketch acted by the 3—4 year olds entitled "The Toy Soldier," and action songs and carols by the children. Father Christmas (Councillor Hourd) despoiled the high Christmas Tree of its contents, each child receiving a toy and a bag of sweets. A special tea was placed before the children to complete the programme. At Sandyford Street a programme of eight items was presented to the Members of the Committee and parents. It consisted of a percussion band, songs, a play, three action games and a carol. Councillor Joynes was Father Christmas, and the afternoon terminated with presents from off the tree and a "big" tea.

The children and Staff of both Nurseries came through with great credit.

It is pleasant to record that Miss Bazeley has been appointed as an Examiner for the National Society of Children's Nurseries, and has also been asked to assist in this respect for the Royal Sanitary Institute.

This will be the last year that the Holmcroft Nursery Class will be under any jurisdiction other than that of the Education Committee. Except for a small outbreak of Measles in March, the attendance throughout the year has been very good indeed. Three Medical Inspections were made, and weekly visits were paid by the School Nurse. Feeding has been both sufficient and varied. Vitamins and milk are also on the daily *menu*.

Numbers on the roll have varied from 12 to 25 and 42 toddlers have been in the class for longer or shorter periods.

Defects discovered during the course of Medical Inspection, some of which were not of such a degree as to require treatment, were :—

Nose and throat	..	..	..	..	..	4
Caries	..	..	..	..	..	2
Catarrh	..	..	..	..	..	3
Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	..	1
Eyes	..	..	..	..	..	2
Skin	..	..	..	..	..	2
Neglect	..	..	..	..	..	1
Postural defects	..	..	..	..	..	5
Congenital defect	..	..	..	..	..	1
Heart murmur	..	..	..	..	..	1

The work done at this little class continues to be good, and it can be said that, if all Nursery Classes are run on the same lines, and in charge of teachers endowed with the same outlook towards and with the like understanding of children, there is everything to be said for their speedy multiplication, but since infection is a special danger, adequate provision must be made for full medical co-operation of the School Nurse.

This Nursery Class is very fortunate in its assembly of strong and interesting toys, most of which have been made by the scholars at the Dartmouth Street Senior Boys' School.

The year was concluded by a happy Christmas party, which included a visit by Father Christmas, an excellent tea, and the joyful singing of carols.

The average daily attendances (Mondays to Fridays only) for the two Day Nurseries were as follows :—

Month	Riverside (50 places).		Sandyford Street (40 places).	
	Under 2 years	Over 2 years	Under 2 years	Over 2 years
January	10	20	9	22
February	14	17	8	22
March	11	9	8	15
April	18	17	6	21
May	14	24	11	22
June	14	27	11	22
July	14	27	10	21
August	12	23	13	21
September	16	23	12	19
October	15	25	12	20
November	14	25	12	20
December	11	20	9	19

Cases of infectious diseases are set out below :—

	Sandyford Street Day Nursery	Riverside Day Nursery	Holmcroft Nursery Class
Measles	10	24	6
Scarlet Fever	4*	1	—
Whooping Cough	2	1	—
Mumps	2	2	3
Skin Diseases	—	2	—
Other „	—	—	1

* Includes 1 Staff.

Children suffering from other conditions were referred for treatment as follows :—

Orthopaedic	0
Ophthalmic	1

Supply of Sheets for Expectant Mothers.

Arrangements were made by the Ministry of Health, in conjunction with the Board of Trade, for Priority Dockets for utility sheets to be issued by Welfare Authorities to expectant mothers where the need for same is certified by the midwife who has been engaged for the confinement in the patient's own home. During the year 450 dockets were issued to 155 applicants.

Care of Premature Infants. Circular 20/44.

Of the 763 births notified last year, 35 were returned as having been under 5½ lbs. in weight.

For the same period, 13 babies died and prematurity was given as the cause of or one of the causes of those deaths, and, of these, 10 died in hospital. Four of the latter were cases from neighbouring districts.

The provision of special cots for the home, etc., is in hand, and enquiries have been made of the Ministry and of the County and neighbouring Authorities as to the special provision of hospitalisation of these cases. From information received, it would appear that Burton House would be the best place for providing the beds in this area, but, for the present, no progress can be made except for an occasional case as there is not sufficient room and the Staff is inadequate.

An analysis of the 35 notified premature babies discloses that, of the twelve entirely nursed at home, three died and nine were alive one month later—of those nursed in Hospital or Nursing Home, two died and sixteen survived the first month—and, of the two born at home and moved to Hospital, both died.

Birth weight :—	Under 4 lbs.		4—5 lbs.		5—5½ lbs.	
	Born	Survived 1 month	Born	Survived 1 month	Born	Survived 1 month
Born in Hospital or Nursing Home	4	3	5	5	12	11
Born at home	3	0	1	1	8	8
Transferred to Hospital	1	0	1	0	—	—
	8	3	7	6	20	19

Although only a small series of cases are quoted the table illustrates the need of special provision for premature babies.

The chance of survival for a baby born of a weight much less than 4 lbs. is low, but the chance is greater as it approximates to that weight and as to the skilled attention it receives. The table also indicates the greater survival rate of the two other less premature groups, *i.e.*, 4—5 lbs. and 5—5½ lbs. groups. It should be noted that of the 35 premature babies ten were contributed by five sets of twins, and of these three sets survived, in one set one only of the twins survived, and in the remaining set both babies died. The last set only were born at home.

Care of Illegitimate Children. Circular 2866.

This has been a year of settling in, and, above all, one of adaptation bringing about a closer and more knowledgeable liaison as between the representative of the Lichfield Diocesan Association for Moral Welfare and this Authority. It might be thought that, as the care of illegitimate children has been delegated to this society, the Local Authority should sit back and wait for the annual report, but this cannot be allowed at the present time, as the Local Authority must be aware, from day to day as it were, of the young woman, for, should she refuse help and guidance from the Society, it still rests with the Local Authority to arrange for her confinement, and see that the child comes to no harm. This view must be maintained until such time as the Local Authority determine that any woman expecting an illegitimate child, and refusing aid or advice from the Welfare Worker of the Society, forfeits any right to assistance from the Welfare Committee, and automatically becomes a charge to the County Public Assistance Committee.

In the twelve months ending March, 1946, 38 mothers were dealt with, and seven babies were placed for adoption in Stafford. Miss Nash, the Organising Secretary of the Lichfield Diocesan Association for Moral Welfare Work, has given me the following brief report :—

“ All babies placed for adoption are regularly visited to ascertain that they have been rightly placed and are happily settled before application is made to the Court for an Adoption Order.

“ 13 Stafford girls have been sent to Diocesan Homes before their confinements, and have remained until satisfactory arrangements have been made for them and their babies.

“ 8 adoptions have been arranged by the Association, and two mothers have placed their children for adoption.

“ 15 babies are in the care of their mothers at home, and in four of these cases a reconciliation has been effected between husband and wife.

“ In only one instance has a child been placed with a foster-mother, but two girls are remaining in a Maternity Home until suitable foster homes can be found for the babies. Good foster homes are urgently needed in order that we may have an alternative to offer if a girl's own home is not satisfactory.

“ Help has been given in various ways to obtain payment towards the maintenance of babies—two Affiliation Orders have been made, and a grant of 10s. per week is being paid to one young mother by the Waifs and Strays Society through this Association. One private agreement has been arranged.”

Royal Brine Baths.

Scarcity of materials and labour of necessity prevent the Baths Committee from increasing the amenities of the Brine Baths at present.

Quarterly samples from the fresh water swim are now taken for bacteriological examination. The following is the report on a sample taken in September :—

Count. On nutrient agar after 48 hours' incubation at 37°C.—5 colonies per ml.

On nutrient agar after 72 hours' incubation at 20-22°C.—11 colonies per ml.

Coli Aerógenes Content (presumptive coli). Nil per 100 ml. after 48 hours' incubation at 37°C.

This sample shows no bacteriological evidence of recent sewage pollution.

Report by Mr. Scott, the Manager of the Baths :—

“ Brine bath treatment again proved very popular and was given to 4,700 persons comparing very favourably with the record figure of 5,000 last year. Due to Staff and fuel economy, it has not been possible to open fully the Turkish Department.

“Swimming instruction to schools was resumed following the return from H.M. Services of the Baths Superintendent. The new Education Act now includes additional schools and instruction occupies all the available periods at the Baths. 9,000 attendances were made in class time.

“The fresh-water swimming bath was closed for one month whilst decorations were carried out. Wash baths were provided for 21,000 civilians and nearly 13,000 Military personnel, the latter having decreased by 7,000 owing to demobilisation.”

PUBLIC HEALTH PROPAGANDA.

The Chairman of the Public Health Committee has from time to time taken the opportunity of presenting to the Council and the Press short statements dealing with Health Subjects, *e.g.*, Diphtheria Immunisation and Rat Destruction.

Stafford participated in the Ministry of Health's local immunisation publicity campaign in association with Wolverhampton and neighbouring areas.

On Baby Day opportunity is taken to ventilate subjects which are of interest, and reports of the speeches made by the judge and Medical Officer of Health are published in the press.

Posters from the Central Council for Health Education are displayed and regularly renewed.

A series of nine film shows was arranged with the Ministry of Information. These films were shown to the mothers attending the Welfare Centre and dealt chiefly with Child Welfare subjects. Films on Scabies and D.D.T. were also shown to selected audiences.

SECTION C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

The Town Water Supply serves the whole of the Borough and a portion of the Stafford Rural District, the total area of supply being 40,000 acres with an estimated population of 42,000. In March, 1946, and based on this population, the average consumption of water per head per day was 38.85 gallons.

The Water Engineer states :—

“ For the year ending 31st March, 1946, the total water consumption was 607,347,060 gallons, a reduction of 35,099,940 gallons on the previous record year.

“ During 1945—6 approximately one and a quarter miles of new water mains were laid on Silkmore Housing Estate, and plans are well in hand for the provision of similar mains on Rising Brook Estate later this year.

“ Work has commenced at Milford on the sinking of a 33in. diameter borehole, which, together with the provision of the necessary electrically operated pumping plant is estimated to cost £15,000. The order has also been placed for new electrically operated machinery to replace that installed at Milford Station in 1890.

“ The water levels at both Pumping Stations are normal for the time of year, and in view of the slightly reduced consumption it is not anticipated that it will be necessary to impose restrictions on the use of water during the coming summer.”

A well supplying two cottages with water was found to be polluted, and these two houses were supplied with Town Water after the service of a statutory notice on the owner.

With the exception of 12 houses which are dependant on well water, all premises in the Borough have an internal supply direct from public mains.

The supply has been very satisfactory in quantity and quality.

Samples are submitted by the Health Department to the County Bacteriologist monthly and the County Analyst quarterly. Their reports are tabulated below.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION.

Town Supply Where sample taken and date.	Count. On nutrient agar after 48 hours' incubation at 37°C.— colonies per ml.	Count. On nutrient agar after 72 hours' incubation at 20-22°C.— colonies per ml.	Coli Aerogenes Content (presump- tive coli)— per 100 ml after 48 hours in- cubation at 37°C.
1. Shugborough Pumping Station. 1/1/45	5	9	Nil.
2. Gaolgate Street. 12/2/45.....	3	6	Nil.
3. Shugborough Pumping Station. 7/3/45	5	7	Nil.
4. Milford Pumping Station. 7/3/45	7	10	Nil.
5. Common Road. 7/3/45	3	6	Nil.
6. Martin Street. 5/4/45.....	3	6	Nil.
7. Martin Street. 3/5/45.....	5	8	Nil.
8. Moss Pit. 4/6/45	5	7	Nil.
9. Milford Pumping Station. 4/6/45	3	5	Nil.
10. Shugborough Pumping Station. 4/6/45	8	9	Nil.
11. The Oval. 4/7/45	5	8	Nil.
12. Foregate Square. 5/9/45	7	9	Nil.
13. Shugborough Pumping Station. 5/9/45	5	10	1
14. Milford Pumping Station. 5/9/45	4	8	1
15. Shugborough Pumping Station. 12/9/45	8	9	Nil.
16. Milford Pumping Station. 12/9/45	10	13	1
17. Milford Pumping Station. 25/9/45	17	31	5
18. Martin Street. 3/10/45	7	1	Nil.
19. Milford Pumping Station. 8/10/45	15	27	1
20. Milford Pumping Station. 8/10/45	5	10	Nil.
21. Milford Pumping Station. 8/10/45	3	4	Nil.
22. Tixall Road. 5/11/45	5	8	Nil.
23. Eastgate Street. 17/12/45	5	8	Nil.
24. Shugborough Pumping Station. 17/12/45	6	11	Nil.
25. Milford Pumping Station. 17/12/45	4	9	Nil.

The presence of presumptive coli in sample No. 14 from the Milford Pumping Station was apparently due to the fact that the caisson in the well had been overhauled. Further samples were taken.

CHEMICAL EXAMINATION.

	Parts per 100,000			
	Com. mon Road 7/3/45	Moss Pit 4/6/45	Fore- gate Square 5/9/45	East- gate Street 17/12/45
Total solid Matter dried at 212°F....	21.50	30.0	29.0	25.5
Free and saline Ammonia	Nil.	Nil.	0.0012	Nil.
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.0010	Nil.	0.0020	0.0025
Nitric Nitrogen	0.15	0.25	0.20	0.26
Chlorine	4.9	5.2	5.3	4.8
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80°F..	0.008	0.007	0.001	0.009
Appearance	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear
Injurious Metallic Contamination ..	None	None	None	None
pH Value.....	7.4	7.5	6.7	7.4
Free Chlorine.....			.. 0.02 part per million	
Hardness before boiling.....	10.40°	12.20°		11.20°
Hardness after boiling	5.80°	5.20°		4.50°
Temporary hardness	4.60°	7.00°		6.70°
	7.3.45	4/6/45	5/9/45	17/12/45
MILFORD PUMPING STATION.				
Total Solid Matter dried at 212°F ..	33.50	30.5	34.00	32.0
Free and Saline Ammonia	0.0010	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.0018	Nil.	0.0016	0.0018
Nitric Nitrogen	0.29	0.22	0.27	0.31
Chlorine.....	6.9	6.7	6.6	5.8
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80°F	0.010	0.010	0.009	0.013
Appearance	Clear	Clear	Clear	*
Injurious Metallic Contamination	None	None	None	None
pH. Value	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.4
Hardness before boiling	13.60°	13.80°	12.40°	13.60°
Hardness after boiling	7.21°	5.60°	4.80°	5.10°
Temporary hardness	6.39°	8.20°	7.60°	8.50°
	7/3/45	4/6/45	5/9/45	17/12/45
SHUGBOROUGH PUMPING STATION.				
Total Solid Matter dried at 212°F..	17.50	14.5	23.50	18.0
Free and Saline Ammonia.....	0.0020	Nil.	0.0010	0.0010
Albuminoid Ammonia	Nil.	Nil.	0.0014	0.0010
Nitric Nitrogen	0.15	0.16	0.29	0.26
Chlorine.....	3.7	3.1	4.1	3.3
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80°F	0.003	0.001	0.001	0.003
Appearance	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear
Injurious Metallic Contamination ..	None	None	None	None
pH Value.....	7.5	7.4	7.5	7.4
Hardness before boiling	8.60°	7.63°	9.40°	8.26°
Hardness after boiling.....	4.80°	3.90°	3.60°	3.80°
Temporary hardness.....	3.80°	3.73°	5.80°	4.46°

* Extremely minute trace of suspended matter.

The samples taken at the Pumping Stations were of unchlorinated water ; the other samples were of chlorinated water.

There have been no reports as to contamination of the water by lead, and the character of the water has led me to believe that it has no plumbo solvent action. A chemical test has been made, and it is reported that the water had no solvent action on lead in 24 hours.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The following new sewers were completed during the year :—

SEWAGE SEWERS.

15in. diameter	..	..	..	..	..	620 yards.
12in. „	..	..	..	..	..	200 yards.
9in. „	..	..	..	..	..	880 yards

1,700 yards

SURFACE WATER SEWERS.

42in. diameter	..	..	..	..	..	140 yards
12in. „	..	..	..	..	..	85 yards
9in. „	..	..	..	..	..	1,640 yards

1,865 yards

Sewage Disposal Works.

I am indebted to the Borough Surveyor for the following note :—

“ Notwithstanding the fact that the purification plant is overtaxed, due in a large measure to increased population and the reception of sewage from Military Camps and Institutions, a reasonably good effluent, although not comparable with pre-war standard, has been maintained. Every effort is made to maintain the standard but increasing difficulties will be experienced, such as the additional volume of sewage to be treated as the result of housing activities, until such time as it is possible to embark on large scale extensions of the disposal plant.”

Closet Accommodation.

The number of waste water closets substituted by a pedestal type of W.C. was 7.

There are approximately 975 waste water closets in the Borough, 42 pail closets, and 16 privy middens. The drains of 180 houses are not connected to the public sewer but discharge into cesspits.

The number of stoppages amounted to 1,100 and 568 of this number were in connection with waste water closets.

When stoppages are found to be caused by rags or other unsuitable articles, the occupiers are warned by letter as to their responsibility regarding the use of closets and drains.

Rivers and Streams.

Frequent observations of the rivers and streams were made, but no serious pollution occurred that would justify any action being taken.

Pollution of the river of an intermittent nature by trade wastes has been dealt with, but the more serious pollution by the effluent from the Sewage Disposal Works can only be remedied by new works which are under active consideration.

The County Council take monthly samples of river water both above and below the effluent outfall of the Sewage Works and of the effluent water from the activated sludge plant. The following are the reports on the samples taken in June and December :—

	100 yards above effluent outfall		Effluent water		100 yards below effluent outfall	
	Parts per 100,000					
	June	Dec.	June	Dec.	June	Dec.
Total solid matter dried at 212°F	156.90	108.4	114.40	143.5	136.20	101.6
of which in suspension ..	0.40	1.4	0.40	2.0	0.20	1.6
Mineral suspended matter	Nil.	0.2	0.20	0.06	Nil.	0.6
Organic suspended matter	0.40	1.2	0.20	1.4	0.20	1.0
Ammoniacal Nitrogen ..	0.0152	0.100	4.8800	4.64	0.3040	0.148
Albuminoid Nitrogen ..	0.0286	0.0296	0.3130	0.1706	0.0582	0.0354
Nitric Nitrogen	0.30	0.25	Nil.	Nil.	0.17	0.24
Chlorine	45.5	23.5	39.50	56.0	42.0	21.5
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80° F	0.420	0.380	1.060	1.280	0.460	0.420
Dissolved Oxygen absorbed in 5 days at 65°F ..	0.270	0.483	1.738	1,738	0.440	0.427
Incubation test	*	*	†	‡	*	*
*Satisfactory. † Putrescent. ‡ Very slightly putrescent.						

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The tabular statement below contains the numbers and nature of inspections made by the Sanitary Inspectors with the number of notices served and the result of such notices.

	No. of		Notices.		Notices complied with	
	Inspect- tions	Defects	Informal 1	Statutory 2		
					1	2
DWELLING-HOUSES :—						
Repairs to dwelling-houses	678	109	62	1	51	1
Houses requiring cleansing and verminous houses.....	154	5	4	—	4	—
Sanitary conveniences	265	72	48	1	36	1
House drainage defects	741	66	52	1	45	1
Defective yard pavements..	4	—	—	—	—	—
Receptacles for house refuse	278	50	36	18	15	18
Accumulation of refuse	28	2	2	—	2	—
Overcrowding	48	—	—	—	—	—
Water supply	61	1	1	1	—	1
Factories and workshops	32	2	2	—	1	—
Bakehouses	51	5	2	—	2	—
Lodging-houses	—	—	—	—	—	—
Slaughter-houses	876	—	—	—	—	—
Fried Fish Shops	50	—	—	—	—	—
Offensive trades.....	4	—	—	—	—	—
Piggeries and Stables	34	1	1	—	—	—
Cowsheds	39	2	2	—	2	—
Dairies and Milkshops	77	1	1	—	1	—
Shops or premises where food is sold or prepared.....	161	—	—	—	—	—
Cinemas	2	—	—	—	—	—
Smoke nuisances	36	1	1	—	—	—
Other nuisances	71	8	8	1	7	1
Closet stoppages	—	975	—	—	—	—
Visits to infectious cases.....	307	—	—	—	—	—
Rat infestation	197	1	1	—	1	—
Unclassified visits	587	—	—	—	—	—
	4781	1301	223	23	167	23

Factory Act, 1937.

Thirty-two inspections were made.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

Number of Council houses found to be infested.. 16
 Number of other houses found to be infested .. 25
 Number of houses disinfested 41

When necessary, rooms are sprayed twice with an insecticide or fumigated, and the bedding is steam disinfected. The occupier is advised as to the thorough cleansing of the house after this disinfestation.

Schools.

Procedure has been the same as in previous years.

Common Lodging House.

The Lodging House in South Walls, which had been discontinued in 1944, was not used as such during the year.

Offensive Trades.

The three offensive trades on the Register consist of 2 rag and bone merchants and one gut scraper.

Rat Infestation.

Systematic control of the town against rat infestation was carried out during the year. The tabulated result of the year's work done shows, on comparison with the previous year, that we have complete control of the town, and, by complaints received, one can say with certainty that at the end of the year the town was free of any major infestation.

Quantity of prepared poison bait eaten by rats :—

Containing Arsenic	.. .. .	49 lbs. 11 oz.
„ Zinc Phosphide	.. .. .	43 lbs. 6 oz.
„ Red Squill	.. .. .	32 lbs. 15 oz.

Total amount eaten .. 126 lbs.

Conservative estimate of rats killed during the year, 3,673.

Complaints received at the office of rat and mice infestation numbered 110.

Treatment was carried out at 156 private premises and 51 business premises. £22 1s. 7d. was charged for treatment at the latter.

The largest industrial firm in the town requested that a survey be made of their works, and it was found that there was a major infestation. As a result of this visit, a man was engaged permanently to destroy rats, and there is reason to believe that he has done good work.

SECTION D.—HOUSING.

The regular and systematic inspection of houses for overcrowding has not been carried out during the war years for obvious reasons—shortage of staff—priority of other duties—and, above all, the billeting of so many people for so long a period had brought about a state of chronic congestion difficult to cope with, and, until records are systematically built up again, there is no true record available. The table (supplied by the Housing Manager) set out below does convey to the reader the demand that exists for houses in the Borough, and that portion of the table referring to lodgers and sub-tenants may be taken as an index also of irksome living conditions. Many human stories have come to light since the termination of hostilities, but none are so heart-rending as those of two or more uncongenial families living in the same house and using the same kitchen, nor are there any finer stories than where two or more families have, in spite of the closest of proximities, managed to keep the peace and live in mutual respect.

No. in family	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Over 8	Total
Householders	1	77	199	199	104	62	27	14	5	688
Lodgers and sub-tenants	30	488	510	151	40	11	4	2	1	1237
	31	565	709	350	144	73	31	16	6	1925

SILKMORE ESTATE.—The construction of roads and sewers on this Estate has reached an advanced stage, and contracts for the erection of houses thereon have been placed as follows :—

Temporary bungalows of the American type 100
Permanent houses of the orthodox type .. 153

Accommodation is available for a further 80 houses, contracts for which it is anticipated will be placed in the near future.

WESTON ROAD.—A contract has been placed for the erection of three houses on a developed site in this road.

CONVERSION OF EXISTING PREMISES INTO FLATS.—The house known as “The Beeches,” Stone Road, formerly used as an auxiliary Fire Station is about to be converted into two self-contained flats, as also is No. 1, Bath Street, formerly used as a Civil Defence Centre.

No houses were actually completed during the period under review either by the Corporation or other persons.

N.B.—At the end of May, 1946, 29 permanent houses had been roofed in and plastering, internal decorations and fittings were well in hand, and 98 temporary houses had been completed.

SECTION E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Registration of Cowkeepers and Dairymen.

Milk producers entered in register	13
Producer-retailers entered in register.. .. .	11
of the above 16 have obtained licences as Accredited Producers.	
Wholesale trader	1
Retail purveyors of milk in the Borough	17
Retail purveyors of milk whose premises are outside the Borough	11

Entered in the Register are also 8 retailers of milk which is sold in sealed bottles.

The milk sold by the wholesale trader is heat treated.

The examination of samples for bacterial content and for tubercle bacilli is carried out by the County Council. The following results were obtained from milk on sale in the Borough.

Designation	Total taken	Cleanliness		Phosphatase		T.B.
		Satis.	Unsatis.	Passed	Failed	
Tuberculin tested	5 (a)	5	—	—	—	—
Accredited ..	3	3	—	—	—	—
Pasteurised ..	6 (b)	3	3	5	1	1
Non-designated ..	61 (c)	52	9	—	—	3

- (a) No biological test on 2 samples.
- (b) ,, ,, 4 ,,
- (c) ,, ,, 26 ,,

In addition, two samples of sterilised milk were examined for cleanliness only and found to be satisfactory.

Statement on samples of milk for cleanliness only, taken by the County Council, the milk being sold within the Borough:—

	Satisfactory	Not up to Standard of expected cleanli- ness.
PRODUCER-RETAILERS :—		
Milk from own cows	12	4
Milk from cows of other producers	7	1
RETAILERS :—		
Dairies within Borough	21	3
Dairies outside Borough.....	23	4

N.B.—One unsatisfactory sample results in further samples being taken from the same supply, which may also be unsatisfactory.

Meat and other Foods.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.—During the year 25 licences were issued to fit and proper persons to slaughter animals for human food.

The following meat was found to be diseased or un-
sound :—

	Tuberculosis		Other Diseases or Injuries				Totals
	Bovines	Pigs	Bovines	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	
Carcases and all organs ..	70	1	23	3	7	1	105
Portions of carcases ..	20	—	29	11	12	8	80
Heads	85	3	19	—	3	—	110
Lungs	747	15	75	7	6	19	869
Hearts	43	8	22	7	6	9	95
Livers	137	7	816	8	399	6	1373
Skirts	52	—	8	—	—	—	60
Kidneys	5	—	12	—	—	—	17
Mesenteries	32	—	—	—	—	—	32
Udders	57	—	78	—	—	—	135
Melts	60	—	24	—	—	1	85
Guts	48	—	4	—	—	2	54
Tripes	44	—	5	—	—	1	50

The percentage of cattle (excluding calves) affected with Tuberculosis was approximately 16%.

The total weight of meat condemned as unfit for human consumption was 39 tons, 6½ cwts. This meat was disposed of by the Ministry of Food.

The number of pigs slaughtered is now very low as the licence issued for bacon curing has been revoked.

No. of cattle slaughtered	.. .. .	5,038
„ calves	„	2,954
„ sheep	„	12,344
„ pigs	„	1,068

Other food was found to be unsound as a result of requests by provision merchants, and 255 certificates confirming the unfitness of the goods for human food were issued.

Regular inspections have been made of the foodstuffs exposed for sale in the Market.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

The following premises are registered :—

Preparation of sausages, etc.	.. .. .	26
Manufacture or sale of ice cream..	.. .. .	34
Fish frying	.. .. .	20

An interim report has been submitted to the Public Health Committee on a special investigation into the manufacture and sale of ice cream. Samples are being taken from every retailer for bacteriological examination, and the results of 24 samples up to the end of June, 1946, are set out below :—

	First samples.	Subsequent samples.
Samples taken	17	7
Count (colonies per c.c.) :		
Over 2,000,000	3	—
1,000,000 to 2,000,000	2	1
100,000 to 1,000,000	2	3
25,000 to 100,000	2	1
Under 25,000.. .. .	7	2
Sterile	1	—
B. Coli present in 1 c.c. or less ..	10	3

It is satisfactory to note that the traders appear in the majority of instances to be very keen to improve the cleanliness of their samples, and I have to record that the Secretary of the trade is being very active in his support of our efforts. A meeting arranged as between the Health Department and the traders was well attended and further, it is satisfactory to note that our repeat samples show a steady improvement.

SECTION F.—PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Vaccination Statistics.

The following figures for 1944 apply to the whole of the Stafford Union Area :—

Births registered	961
Successfully vaccinated	280
Insusceptible	0
Exemptions	613
Died unvaccinated	31
Removed	37

Infectious Disease.

It will be seen from the table that generally infectious diseases have remained under control during the year. It discloses a fair number of Scarlet Fever cases although less than the year before, that the number of cases of Dysentery have risen, and, whereas last year was the year of Whooping Cough, this year has been the year of Measles and Mumps. Mortality has been low.

The death returns have disclosed the prevalence of Influenza. The mortality rate for Pneumonia has increased for the year, and this was one of the causes for the increase in the Infantile Mortality. (See page 9)

The table below, compiled from School returns, made available through the courtesy of the County Medical Officer of Health, includes contacts as well as cases.

	1944	1945
Whooping Cough	10	13
Measles	8	280
Mumps	8	219
Scarlet Fever	43	14
Diphtheria	3	1
Chickenpox	425	2
Cerebro Spinal Fever	—	1
Scabies	14	9
German Measles	—	57

Notifiable Disease.	At all Ages.	Case Distribution as to Wards.				Marston Road Hosp.	Gen. Infirm.	Under 1 year	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—25	25—35	35—45	45—65	65 & over	Removal to Isolation Hospital
		North	South	East	West	Baswich															
Scarlet Fever Cases .. Deaths	74 —	17 —	27 —	18 —	11 —	1 —	1 —	1 —	3 —	8 —	4 —	7 —	34 —	10 —	4 —	2 —	1 —	—	—	—	54 —
Diphtheria Cases .. Deaths	5 —	1 —	2 —	1 —	—	1 —	1 —	—	1 —	—	—	—	—	—	3 —	1 —	—	—	—	—	5 —
Pneumonia Cases .. Deaths	8 2	2 1	1 —	1 —	4 1	—	1 —	3 2	—	—	—	1 —	—	—	—	1 —	—	2 —	1 —	—	—
Polio-myelitis Cases .. Deaths	1 —	1 —	—	—	—	—	1 —	—	1 —	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever Cases .. Deaths	6 1	1 —	1 —	—	—	4 1	3 1	1 —	—	—	—	—	—	2 —	2 —	—	—	1 1	—	—	—
Dysentery Cases .. Deaths	35 —	2 —	11 —	9 —	6 —	7 —	—	—	1 —	—	—	—	1 —	1 —	4 —	9 —	6 —	7 —	6 —	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia Cases .. Deaths	5 —	1 —	3 —	1 —	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5 —	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas Cases .. Deaths	11 —	2 —	2 —	4 —	3 —	—	2 —	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1 —	—	6 —	4 —	—	—
Measles Cases .. Deaths	488 1	82 —	113 —	117 1	129 —	47 —	—	13 —	50 1	54 —	52 —	71 —	230 —	9 —	5 —	3 —	—	1 —	—	—	2 —
Whooping Cough Cases .. Deaths	80 —	12 —	12 —	10 —	26 —	20 —	—	7 —	17 —	20 —	9 —	8 —	17 —	1 —	—	1 —	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1 —	1 —	—	—	—	—	1 —	1 —	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Scarlet Fever.

There were 74 cases notified in 1945 as against 122 in the previous year.

There was more than one case in one family in 9 instances. There were no "return" cases.

Diphtheria.

Notified cases numbered 5. All cases were admitted to Hospital. There were no deaths due to the disease. Four of the cases were over 15 years of age.

It will be noted that only one child was notified, and he had not been immunised. There was, however, one immunised case, a man aged 26, who was immunised 13 years previously.

Diphtheria antitoxin, available for the treatment of cases of Diphtheria, can be obtained free on request by a medical practitioner. Diphtheria prophylactic is also provided free, and is used for the prevention of the disease.

THE STATE OF IMMUNISATION.—At the end of 1945 it was estimated that 42.3% of children under five and 92.6% of children between five and fifteen had been immunised.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION, 1945.

School	Immunised	Schick test		Children re-immunised
		+	—	
St. Austin's.....	6	—	—	3
St. Leonard's Avenue	18	—	—	54
Forebridge	9	—	—	14
Corporation St. Infants	12	—	—	8
" " Girls	1	—	—	—
" " Boys	1	—	—	—
Littleworth	8	—	—	9
Tenter Banks	19	—	—	9
Holmcroft	15	—	—	14
Stone Road.....	37	—	—	18
Girls' High School	1	—	—	1
Dartmouth Street	1	—	—	—
St. Patrick's Junior	5	—	—	6
Rickerscote	4	—	—	12
Welfare Centre	299	—	—	19
General Practitioners	95	—	—	11
Day Nurseries.....	6	—	—	—
Total	537	—	—	178

Only those who completed their immunisation are included in the above figures.

Since 1940 A.P.T. supplied by the Government has been used for the immunisation of children, but older children and adolescents receive injections of T.A.F.

Dysentery.

Thirty-five cases were reported. Seven occurred at the County Mental Hospital, and the remainder in private houses. These cases, when bacteriologically confirmed, were due to the Sonne bacillus. There were no deaths.

Puerperal Pyrexia.

None of the six cases notified were admitted to Hospital, but two occurred in a Maternity Home. There were no deaths.

Pneumonia.

There were eight cases of Pneumonia notified with two deaths. Last year there were 7 cases with two deaths. These figures relate only to cases of Acute Primary and Influenzal Pneumonia.

Erysipelas.

Eleven cases were notified.

Scabies and Lousiness.

As reported last year the County Education Authority carry out verminous and cleanliness inspections, but, for the Borough as a whole, a scheme is in operation whereby cases of Scabies are referred by their own Doctors to the District Nurses who treat the whole family with Benzyl Benzoate Emulsion provided by the Council. Last year 38 sufferers involving 201 persons including contacts were treated. If necessary, bedding and clothing are steam disinfected, and this was carried out in one instance last year.

If treatment cannot be carried out in the home, arrangements have been made for the reception and cleansing of cases at the Public Assistance Institution.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

The one case notified was a child who had been admitted to the Public Assistance Institution from outside the Borough.

Tuberculosis.

Analysis of the new cases and deaths during the calendar year, 1945 :—

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0—1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
1—5	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	1
5—15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25	1	5	—	—	1	1	—	—
25—35	—	1	1	—	—	3	—	—
35—45	3	3	—	—	7	—	—	—
45—55	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Totals	6	9	3	2	10	4	1	1
Ten year average, pre-war (1929-38)	21.9	15.6	7.7	5.3	12.6	7.8	2.8	1.7

The death rates per 1,000 of the population were :—
Respiratory, 0.41 ; non-respiratory, 0.06. Total, 0.47.

The “ Balance Sheet ” for the Register may be given as follows :—

On Register at Jan. 1 ..	167	Deaths	17
Notifications	20	Removals	8
Unnotified deaths ..	1	Recovered	7
Transfers	3	On Register at Dec. 31 ..	161
Returned to District ..	2		
	<hr/> 193		<hr/> 193

NOTIFICATION.—There was one death from Tuberculosis of a person who had not been notified as suffering from the disease.

The ratio of non-notified Tuberculosis deaths to total Tuberculosis deaths was 1 to 16. In the event of death from Tuberculosis, unless it is a post-mortem diagnosis, the practitioner is written to, and the reason for non-notification is asked for.

The average interval elapsing between notification and death was $48\frac{3}{4}$ months.

Admissions to and discharges from institutions were notified as follows:—

	Admissions	Discharges.
Standon Hall Orthopaedic Hospital	1 ..	3
Prestwood Sanatorium	4 ..	3
Groundslow Sanatorium	5 ..	4

HEALTH VISITING.—The Health Visitors paid 21 primary visits to tuberculous persons on notification and 77 subsequent visits.

Disinfection.

A Washington Lyon steam disinfecter is used for bedding, clothing, etc., which have been exposed to infection, or have been infested with vermin.

Lots of bedding disinfected or destroyed	34
Houses disinfected after infectious disease	17

MORTUARY.

Bodies dealt with at the Public Mortuary are classified as follows :—

Borough residents.. .. .	14
Non-residents who died in the Borough	2
Brought in from outside Borough	4
Non-civilians	3
	—
	23
	—
Post-mortem examinations	9

